

Tuesday April 23 1996

Table of international flight arrivals and departures including destinations like Abu Dhabi, Athens, and Amsterdam.

The Guardian

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,534

The reclusive Barclay brothers' battle with Sark



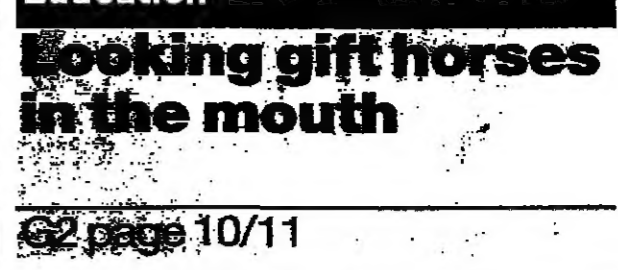
G2 with...

Richard Williams on a tangled relationship



G2 page 10/11

Education



Looking gift horses in the mouth

Tory chief in Euro fiasco

Patrick Wintour and Michael White

THE Conservative Party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, has infuriated pro-European MPs by ordering the cancellation of a conference...

Mother insists son should stay and demands support



Richard Wilding, 13, with his father Philip and mother Rita. 'It's not fair,' he says

Birmingham Six 'suffered irreversible traumas'

David Pallister

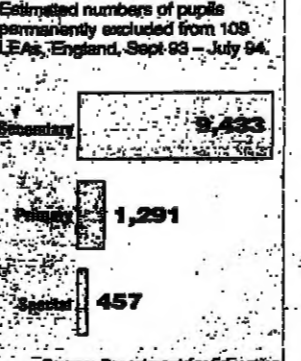
THE Birmingham Six, who were released on appeal in 1991 after 16 years in prison for five of the men, said yesterday...

New-school option for boy in strike row

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

EDUCATION officials will today meet the parents of a violent 13-year-old boy in an effort to prevent a strike by teachers who refuse to have him in class...

Exclusions



Rita Wilding insisted her son should stay at the school. 'It is disgusting to strike over my son. It has all been blown up out of proportion...

Operation 'stunt' by queen of hearts appals agony aunt

Gary Young

HER sin, she said, was to be the queen of all our hearts. But yesterday the Princess of Wales was branded an ace at self-publicity after she took her role a little too literally...

children and the fact that a little person can have a second opportunity from my country - I'm very proud to be involved...

Navigation bar with sections: Inside, Britain, World News, Economics, Sport, Comment and Letters 8, Obituaries 10, G2, Arts 8/9, Women 12/13, Radio 16, TV 16. Includes The Guardian logo and barcode.

صكنا من الامل

Shares soar as left takes over in Italy

John Hooper in Rome

THE Italian left was last night readying itself for its first real taste of power after an historic victory in Sunday's general election. Final results showed the Olive Tree alliance of former Communists, the Socialists, progressive Christian Democrats, and Greens could enjoy a clear majority in the lower house of parliament — but only with help from hardline Marxists.

Fears that this could lead to tensions within the ruling coalition were brushed aside by investors who saw in the results a chance for stable government by a respected economist. The centre-left's candidate for prime minister is Romano Prodi, a Bologna university professor and former chairman of the state holding company IRI.

Share values soared by almost 5 per cent on the Milan Stock Exchange but bond prices and the value of the lira dipped later on figures indicating a resurgence of inflation.

That is one of many problems facing the new government in a country which needs thorough reform. Prof Prodi said his first steps would include cutting interest rates and rejoining the European Union's exchange rate mechanism.

The right-hand man, Walter Veltroni of the ex-Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), said other priorities included a simplification of tortuous tax regulations and aid to small businesses in the depressed south.

Asked if Italy might be in for a period of austerity, Prof Prodi said: "If seriousness is called austerity, yes."

The defeated leader of the right, Silvio Berlusconi, dismissed speculation that he might leave politics. The television tycoon, who is being tried for corruption, said his alliance, which includes neo-fascists and ex-Christian Democrats, was "important for keeping Italy within the bounds of a true democracy".

The Olive Tree alliance will need the support of the orthodox Marxists of Communist Refoundation, whose leader, Fausto Bertinotti, yesterday promised to "help give birth" to a centre-left administration. But he made it clear he hoped to influence the government "in a programmed way". His campaign proposal for a return to index-linked pay was, nevertheless, vigorously brushed aside.

Olive Tree could, in theory, seek the support of the federalist Northern League, which did better than expected in Sunday's ballot. But the League's leader, Umberto Bossi, who revived threats of secession during the campaign, scored any sort of pact with either of the two nationally-based blocs. He said: "We shall be going to Rome ... in the certainty that the north knows how to free itself from the colonialist power."

At the Vatican, a key force in blocking the Communists' from power after the second world war, Father Federico Lombardi, the director of programmes for Vatican radio, said he hoped the result would usher in a period of stable government "so as to be to solve urgent problems".

He noted that, for the first time, the Church had not given the faithful advice on how to vote.

Berlusconi defeat, page 5
Leader comment, page 5
Spring-cleaning, page 9

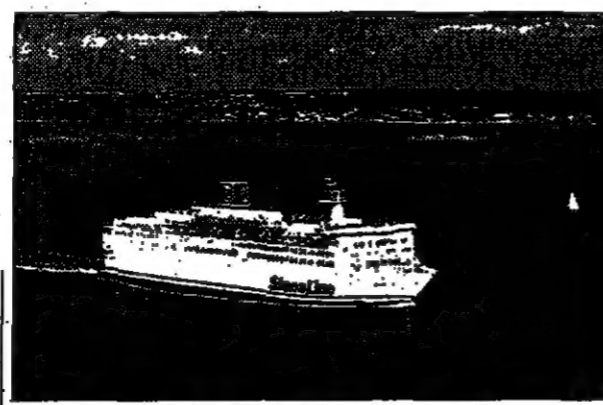


The way ahead... more and better services are expected at Eurotunnel terminals such as Waterloo, in an effort to compete with ferry duty fees. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENSEN

Eurotunnel goes to war with £900m loss

Summer price war forecast as firm offers 'more grief' for ferries

Ian King



Stena will have to cut sailings, Eurotunnel forecasts

ACROSS-Channel price war looks inevitable again this summer after Eurotunnel, the Channel tunnel operator, yesterday revealed net losses of £225 million for the year — one of the worst figures in British corporate history.

An ebullient Sir Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's chairman, brushed aside the losses and promised "more grief" for ferry operators this summer, with a string of bold marketing initiatives.

Although he refused to go into details, Sir Alastair said Eurotunnel's services would be marketed more aggressively, consolidating the group's position as market leader.

Among likely moves are an improvement in the quality and range of services at the Channel terminals and although Eurotunnel yesterday ruled out a price-war, analysts expect prices to fall.

Sir Alastair also predicted that cross-Channel ferry operators, such as P&O and Stena Sealink, would have to cut crossings this year. Over

Passenger share

	1995	1996
Eurotunnel	43	41
P&O	48	30
Stena Sealink	32	20
Others (Hoverspeed, Sefly, Sea France)	7	9

Source: Eurotunnel, Stena Sealink

the past two years, the ferry companies had increased daily crossings on the Dover-Calais route from 49 to 65, and he accused them of subsidising fares with duty-free sales.

Sir Alastair added: "We're hurting the ferries where they need to be hurt, and hope they will start to rationalise their operations this year. As long as they don't, we'll hurt them more and more."

His remarks were seized on by Stena Sealink, which accused Eurotunnel of trying to create a monopoly by pricing its competitors out of the market.

Stena spokesman Brian Rees said: "If their priority is now to inflict pain on ferry operators to establish themselves as a monopoly player, that's predatory pricing, and the economics of the madhouse."

Mr Rees indicated that if Eurotunnel were guilty of predatory pricing, Stena would consider complaining to competition authorities in Brussels.

As part of its drive to compete with Eurotunnel, Stena would cut up to a third off the price of its best-selling duty-free cigarettes and spirits in May, to coincide with the launch of two new high-speed services.

Eurotunnel, which froze interest payments on its £2.8 billion debt last September,

included interest payments of £78 million, were in line with expectations.

Sir Alastair admitted that the figures were disappointing, but pointed out that Eurotunnel — whose losses work out at £1,760 a minute — had grabbed almost half the cross-Channel market in its first year of operations, making it market leader. "Not many companies go from zero to 45 per cent in their first year, so perhaps we've actually done rather well."

However, the City reacted with disappointment at Sir Alastair's failure to come up with news on negotiations with Eurotunnel's bankers, and marked the shares down 4 1/2 p to 69p.

Eurotunnel's 225 bankers are deciding how to restructure the union, have a say in drawing up the party's manifesto.

The deal, which allows the unions to hold their own ballot, will help defuse the row which followed Tony Blair's decision to ballot the party's entire membership.

It was agreed at a meeting at Congress House between Mr Blair, the deputy leader John Prescott and a handful of senior union leaders.

The move to ballot the 350,000 membership would have been the first time that a key part of Labour policy-making had excluded the unions. The proposal had caused anger and anxiety with unions over Mr Blair's plans for union-party relations.

Yesterday's agreement means that Labour's pre-election manifesto, due to be published this summer, will be put to a ballot of party and union members, probably the biggest pre-election endorsement ever sought by a Western political party.

The GMB union's general secretary, John Edmonds, was instrumental in persuading his fellow union leaders that the best response to Mr Blair's membership-only ballot move was to co-ordinate unions' ballots. It now seems all the big unions — the Transport and General Workers Union, the GMB, the Communication Workers Union and the AEU — will hold ballots of all their political levy payers on the manifesto.

Such is the unions' determination to remain integral to

Golfer punches hole in etiquette

Alex Bellis

GOLF is meant to be the best behaved of sports, and its players are asked by a gentlemanly etiquette.

One particular unwritten rule, however, which the uninitiated would do well to remember, is this: never tee off when the people in front you are still in range.

Terry Duke didn't take this advice. He ended up with a handicap no perfect swing could remedy — a broken jaw.

Portsmouth crown court heard yesterday how a row at a Hampshire club over a breach of the gentleman's code resulted in one of the most violent outbreaks of "golf rage" ever witnessed. Mr Duke, a builder aged 37, was taken to hospital after he was whacked with his own club by a man ahead of him at the same hole.

The incident began when Mr Duke's son Peter, a low-



Terry Duke: played shot despite players in front



Charles Haines: hit Duke in the face with his own club

handicap player, teed off on the 14th hole of the Cams Hall Estate golf course, and the ball flew past the group in front. The court heard that Peter shouted "fore" and the group, including Charles Haines, a 64-year-old businessman, quickly moved to the side.

But as Duke *par* moved to his tee, Haines walked

out into the middle of the fairway and stood with his hands on his hips staring back at him some 250 yards away. Mr Duke played the shot, all the same.

Shortly afterwards, as the Dukes prepared to play their approach shots to the green, Mr Haines jogged back up the fairway and started threatening them.

Molly Keane, chronicler of dextrous monstrosities, dies

John Ezard

THE Irish writer, Molly Keane, whose twin careers spanned more than 60 years, has died aged 81.

Her first stories were published in 1934. She had plays directed by Sir John Gielgud in London's West End in the same decade, under the pen name MJ Farrell. After a long obscurity, she was rediscovered in 1961, when her novel, Good Behaviour, was short-listed for the Booker Prize under her own name.

This late second flowering was comparable only with the re-emergence of the novelist, Jean Rhys, in the 1970s.

Ms Keane lived for much of her later life in a white-washed cottage in County Wexford. All that her surviving high society friends were apt to say of her later writing was "I didn't find one spelling mistake".

She said: "My books don't feel part of my life. I've only ever done it for the money."

When someone tells me they've liked my book, I may feel a kind of drunken warmth. But I somehow feel they're talking to someone else."

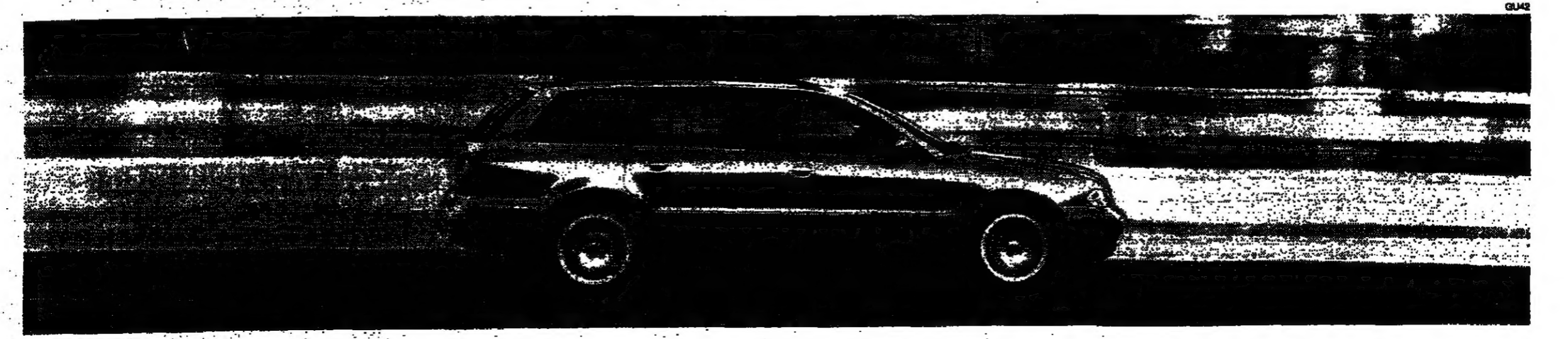
She grew up as an upper-class Anglo-Irish gentleman's daughter. Borrowing her pseudonym from an Irish pub licensee's name she had noted while hunting, she had Spring Meeting, the first of five plays, performed in London in 1938.

The death of her husband, Bobby, at a youthful age silenced her artistically until the 1970s.

"I see little cruelties very plainly," she said. "People can be hideously unkind. I have often watched the dextrous monstrosities between the rich and not-so-rich."

Her subsequent novels were Time after Time, which, like Good Behaviour, was televised, followed by Nursery Cooking and Loving and Giving.

Obituary, page 10



The new Audi A4 Avant. Drive one, and you'll never drive an estate.

Conventionally, estate cars are functional but rather dull load-luggers. That's why the new Audi A4 Avant isn't one. For more information, please call 0345 998877.



News in brief

More than 100 killed in Afghan floods

MORE than 100 people have been killed in heavy flooding in Afghanistan, relief workers said yesterday. At least seven provinces, covering more than a quarter of the country, have been affected by the floods brought on by melting snow and heavy rains, a worker from an international relief agency said.

Report calls for fish farms

VAST fish and shellfish farms are needed to satisfy world demand because of the over-exploitation and decline of natural fish populations, says an International Food Policy Research Institute report published today.

Crime costs US billions

CRIME is costing the United States \$450 billion (\$200 billion) a year, says a report commissioned by the justice department in an attempt to calculate the intangible cost to victims of child abuse and domestic violence as well as murder, rape and robbery.

Four confess to Riyadh blast

FOUR Saudis confessed on state television yesterday to last year's car bombing of a US-run military training centre in Riyadh and said they had been planning further attacks.

Fires rage across Mongolia

FOREST fires have raged out of control in north-eastern Mongolia for a third week, leaving burnt-out nomadic tent villages and charred cattle carcasses.

Jaffna cut off by pincer

SRILANKAN forces thrusting deep into Tamil Tiger rebel territory in a pincer movement have virtually cut off the northern Jaffna peninsula from the mainland, trapping guerrillas and residents, an army officer said yesterday.

Landmine talks reopen

CAMPAGNERS built a mountain of almost 14,000 boots and shoes outside the United Nations Geneva headquarters yesterday to symbolise the human victims of landmines, as a two-week conference to tighten restrictions on the use of landmines began.

Bulgaria to close reactor

BULGARIA has responded to international pressure and agreed to close the oldest nuclear reactor at the Kozloduzh plant on May 15, for safety tests to be carried out. The decision was reached at a meeting of Bulgarian and Western engineers and safety experts at the end of last week in Sofia, but has not yet been announced.

China plays a 'Russia card'

In the second article of a series on President Yeltsin's visit, Andrew Higgins looks at Beijing's new hand in the game of triangular diplomacy in which it is hoping to dent US power

FORTY-FIVE minutes before Richard Nixon went on television 25 years ago to reveal a secret visit to China by Henry Kissinger, the Soviet Union received an unimpressive preview of Washington's new "China card".

Wary of what they see as an American strategy of "containment", China's leaders look to Moscow as a valuable source of weapons and technical expertise, and as a diplomatic counterweight to the US.

The US will not allow the emergence of a great country in Europe or Asia that threatens its power to dominate

more than 80,000 troops. China regards America's military presence in Asia as aimed primarily at thwarting its policies on Taiwan and its emergence as a big power.

China's anti-American rhetoric echoes that used against the Soviet Union at the height of the cold war. Accusations of hegemony appear with increasing regularity. "The US will not allow the emergence of a great country on the European or Asian continents that threatens its power to dominate," said the People's Daily.

US credibility in the Middle East is at stake as Christopher fails to break the deadlock



Quietly determined... Lebanese civilians in Beirut stopped whatever they were doing yesterday as a minute's silence was observed to remember the 103 refugees who were killed last week when Israeli troops fired shells at the United Nations camp at Qana, in southern Lebanon, provoking condemnation from around the world

Clinton's diplomacy in tatters

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE crisis in the Middle East began to emerge yesterday as a diplomatic disaster for the United States, as well as a threat to the people of the region.

Syrian leader raises price of ceasefire

In the face of this onslaught, the US negotiating team were very cautious about their prospects yesterday.

Arafat urges changes to PLO charter

PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat convened the Palestine National Council yesterday to urge it to amend passages of the 1964 Palestine Liberation Organisation charter calling for the destruction of Israel.

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Molly Keane

Writing on the hoof

MOLLY KEANE, who died aged 90, was a delightful, witty woman with a gift for friendship and living. She was born into an Anglo-Irish family...

home on her horse after a hard day's hunting. So apparently she did her remarkable career with pen and paper...

So apparently she did her remarkable career with pen and paper. She was always alert to the sound of tocsins, and she observed and preserved with greater accuracy than other writers with more pretension to scholarship the minutiae of the last days of the Irish Raj...

Molly's eyes alight with innocence, told a good story about her penultimate novel Time After Time, a dazzling tour de force written in her eighties. At a dinner party in her honour in Paris, the guests expressed their horror of Jasper, the hero of the book...

recounted with relief her mother's bleak efforts at sex instruction. 'There's a thing men do,' she told her when she was 17...



Life's tapestry... Molly Keane's novels of the moneyed, hunting class are social testimonies

Polly Devlin

Grove Dublin writer Molly Keane described herself in a profile in the New Yorker as 'a great old breaker-awayer'...

Christopher Robin Milne

Bearing a legacy of empty fame

THE fourth of A.A. Milne's Christopher Robin books, The House at Pooh Corner, and the rest of the books...

longer than the contentment of JM Barrie's real-life adopted boy. The memory of a parent who was emotionally remote, from whom he had had to run away as a young man...



Bridging fact and fiction... Christopher Robin real and imaginary: there was no idyllic childhood

family and in the Devon and Sussex counties, which he used the family name to try to preserve. In Dartmouth, he and his wife Lesley, a cousin, ran perhaps the best-known small bookshop in the country...



They're changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace. Christopher Robin went down with Alice... More lethal than boarding school bullies read it was: 'Little boy kneels at the foot of the bed'...

quess if asked to discuss the Christopher Robin titles. He trotted out on his shelves. He autographed them if you donated £10 to the Save the Children Fund. Milne was four when he first appeared in print...

relationship between telephoto photography and community the hard way when they moved into a small Florida condominium complex with communal swimming pool. One afternoon, they arrived home early and made love on the ground floor of their condo...

Jackdaw



AND the editor spoke and she said that the art department should bring forth a photographic image of the Son of God, so that Time magazine would look better than Newsweek when it appeared in the magazine kiosks of Sodom and Gomorrah, New York and Chicago, London and Rome...

bore a remarkable resemblance to Jesus. She particularly recalled his 'spiritual quality' ('You know how some men have a scint, but it's nice') and 'a sweetness around the mouth that men in New York usually lose'...

When Ms Jenrette reached the former bartender (whom men call 'Scott Hull') in Australia, he was thrilled to be the chosen one. 'That's so weird,' he said. 'My mom's name is Mary'...

There was, however, one obvious obstacle. His hair was an unholy mess. 'You're thinking, Jesus is Syrian. It's not like he's going to have this straight, dead hair,' Ms Jenrette said...

Neighbourly JANET Paddock and Alfred Stephens discovered the new relationship between telephoto photography and community the hard way when they moved into a small Florida condominium complex with communal swimming pool...

equipping their own secret governments to make the world safe for communism. How'd neighbour! Vince Leo on the politics of the telephoto lens in Prague...

Heavy body Top Model has special pages devoted to Cindy Crawford, the Story of a Star. In includes '24 Hours with Cindy'. By 12pm... Cindy has always loved flowers, especially orchids. That's why she wanted to make a detour by the market to see the greenhouse where the rare species are kept...

protection, or they have internalised commercial gay culture and don't want to live past 35 (which would make them 'over the hill'). You have reasons but no excuses...

On the board IF YOU think what is involved in skateboarding: music, bodystyle, interclass relations (though we may dispute whether there are inter-gender and inter-racial constellations), I don't think there is anything in it that makes it exclusively white...

Desmond Christy Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-733-2362; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 115 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

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Robert Hersant

Guarded past of a French press baron

ROBERT HERSANT, who has died aged 76, was France's most powerful press baron and passionate about spreading news. But he preferred to keep his own motives secret...

threatened because Mitterrand's socialist intended to curb newspaper ownership as part of the new president's platform. Laws were passed but Hersant was untroubled. He benefited from Mitterrand's unspoken protection as an anti-Gaullist ally...

His extremism - an error of youth, he claimed - did not prevent him building up a most significant, 40-title press empire. It included France-Soir and provincial dailies like Le Progrès and Le Dauphiné. He delighted in buying up post-liberation newspapers that succeeded discredited wartime journals...

In 1981, expansion seemed his last major move. In 1981, he told a journalist: 'In truth, the press has always been the domain of empire builders and they always finish by collapsing. I have no illusions - nothing is eternal.' Hersant leaves a wife and eight children.

Birthdays Shirley Temple Black, former child star and US ambassador; 58; The Most Rev Michael Bowen, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark; 86; Bill Cotton, broadcaster; 88; Antony Craxton, pioneer of outside broadcasts; 78; J F Donleavy, author; 70; Barry Douglas, pianist; 83; Harold French, actor, theatre and film director; 96; Alvin Karpis, travel writer; 91; James Kirkup, columnist, Royal College of Defence Studies; 52; Victoria Glendinning, biographer; 89; Sir Arnold Hall, aeronautical engineer; 81; James Jopp, UN official; 84; James Kirke Paulding, travel writer; 87; Rowley Leigh, restaurateur; 46; Bernadette McAlliskey, Irish civil rights campaigner; 49; Pierreluisi Martini, grand prix racing driver; 39; Tony Miles, chess player; 41; Ronald Neame, film producer and director; 85; Mike Smith, disc jockey; 41; George Steiner, linguistic philosopher and critic; 87; Ed Stewart, disc jockey; 55.

Death Notices CORRIET, Geoffrey, died peacefully on 20th April much remembered for his contribution to the world of music. He will be sadly missed by his family. Buried in the garden of the Methodist Church, East End Rd, VC, Waltham. Tel: 0171-561-5811. Mrs Joan Corriet.

WATSON, Malcolm Gay, died peacefully on Thursday 18th April at the age of 64. He will be missed by all his family and friends.

WAGNER, George of Loughborough, Leics, aged 82 years on April 20th 1996 after a long illness. He will be missed by all his family and friends. Buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church, Loughborough. Tel: 01509 22124.

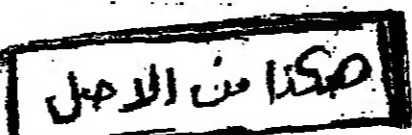
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Finance Guardian



Weaver Brian Trevis, creels the bobbins on a gripper loom at the 300-year-old Wilton Carpet Factory...

Bell merger causes fury

Rivals protest at creation of new phone giant

Mark Tron in New York

The \$24 billion (\$16 billion) Nynex and Bell Atlantic merger...

a new, stronger Bell Atlantic. It's hard to see how new competition promised by the Telecommunications Act can be attained if existing monopolies simply combine into larger ones...

The unions also voiced their opposition to the Bell Atlantic-Nynex deal. 'Neither consumers nor workers will be well served by a merger,' said Jan Pierce...

The second biggest deal in US history after the \$26 billion acquisition of RJR Nabisco by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts in 1989...

Southern Electric chiefs in line for £2m bonus

Chris Barrie and Simon Beavis

RENEWED outrage over executive pay and perks erupted last night when it emerged that five Southern Electric directors stand to make more than £2 million from shares and options if National Power's £2.5 billion agreed bid for the regional electricity company goes ahead...

1,300 jobs at risk as Power Store pleads with creditors

Roger Coote

POWER Store, the struggling electrical retailer created from former electricity board showrooms, was last night locked in talks with creditors in a bid to avoid the appointment of administrators which would threaten 1,300 jobs...

explaining the company's plight, chairman Clive Viotmar blames some of its problems on 'the enforced move to a new head office'...

investors will receive a second interim dividend of 26.3p a share in lieu of a final dividend. There is a loan note alternative...

We won't bail you out, Clarke tells markets

Sarah Fyfe in Washington

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, warned the markets last night that they would not be bailed out of bad loans made to governments of emerging economies...

The move could increase the burden of debt on some of the world's most vulnerable economies, because it suggests that the markets might exact a risk premium...

collapse private creditors were repaid in full and promptly. 'They [the markets] should consider developing means to enable them to renegotiate payment terms in the event of a liquidity crisis,' the Chancellor said...

Lloyd's seeks £31m mortgage for '1958 building'

Pauline Springbett

LLOYD'S of London is trying to arrange a £31 million mortgage on the building in Lime Street which it formerly housed its underwriting room...

'1958 building' because it was opened in that year. One banker, who asked not to be named, said he had been given a 'hard sell' by a Lloyd's intermediary who had wanted his bank to agree to a £31 million mortgage...

Notebook

City's Darling points the way



Edited by Alex Brummer

THERE has been some criticism of Labour for its failure to spell out precisely what it means by stakeholding...

banks and building societies, has now been above the authorities 3.9 per cent monitoring range for five months in a row...

Market myth

PURISTS in the science of competition once used admirably on the UK economy and particularly privatised utilities...

Money alert

THE renewed interest by the Bank of England in the money supply can be looked at in two ways...

House market hopes dashed

Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent

HOPE of a spring revival in the housing market were damped yesterday by figures showing a fall in property sales last month...

Table with columns: TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA.

Racing

Hi-tech detection beats the dopers

Chris Hawkins

RACING is winning its battle against the criminals with the chemistry sets. Less than 2 per cent of all horses tested for drugs last year returned a positive sample...

maintaining this vital integrity service, so important to win the confidence of punters and owners, is over £2 million a year and Britain is devoting proportionately more than any other country in Europe.

agents, but they are not preventing detection and are overrated. "Detection technology has come on by leaps and bounds, but we must not get complacent and ensure that we keep up our guard...

Feathered Gale going for Gold

FEATHERED GALE is 5-1 with Hill's to follow up his Irish Grand National victory in the Whitbread Gold Cup, last big chase of the racing season, at Sandown on Saturday, writes Ron Cox.

The Thresher Classic Trial, which follows the Whitbread, could provide Derby clues. Entries include Henry Cecil's Silver Dams and the Royal Lodge Stakes winner, Mons.

This divergence of views over what is permissible is an intractable problem and, try as they might, no headway is being made to bring the two camps together.



Stoop to conquer... Mike Lalor hip-checks Martin Ulrich of Austria during the United States' 6-1 win in the world ice hockey championship in Vienna yesterday.

American Football

Monarchs sack Hammond after record defeat

Michael Carlson

THE London Monarchs, who suffered their worst defeat when they lost 37-3 in Frankfurt on Saturday, yesterday fired their head coach Bobby Hammond.



Ferry... Frosty falling out

Monarchs all over the Redgraves, William the Refrigerator, Perry spent most of the game on the bench. Reports from players suggested a personality clash with Hammond, whose good relationship with Perry had helped bring him to London in the first place.

Pontefract runners and riders with form

Table listing race results for Pontefract, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Folkestone

Table listing race results for Folkestone, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Chepstow (N.H.)

Table listing race results for Chepstow (N.H.), including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Results

Table listing race results for Brighton, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Results

Table listing race results for Nottingham, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Results

Table listing race results for 5.10, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

RACELINE advertisement featuring a phone number (0930 1684) and a list of services for horse racing enthusiasts.

Folkestone advertisement for Blunkers today, featuring a list of horse racing events and their starting times.

Chepstow (N.H.) advertisement for Blunkers today, featuring a list of horse racing events and their starting times.

Cricket

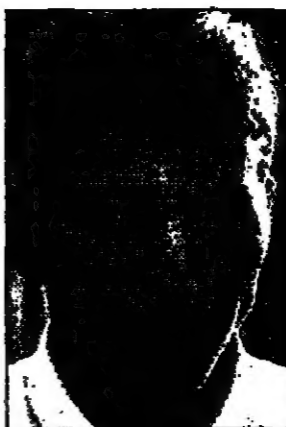
The vote of confidence in Mike Atherton has cleared the decks for fiercer battles to come on the Illingworth panel, says Mike Selvey

England's last easy decision

MIKE Atherton has been given the go-ahead to lead England into the first part of this summer's international season. In a decision that by last year's standards constituted an indecent haste, the chairman of selectors Raymond Illingworth announced that Atherton was being appointed for the three one-day internationals and three Tests against India; a review for the second half of the season will be made after that.

It looks like an isolated chairman staking out his territory and, in the face of criticism and a steady undermining of his power base, letting everyone know who is in charge. Illingworth has had a tough time of it in the past few months. A competitive Test series was lost in one hour's tail-end mayhem in Cape Town but was followed by a wretched one-day series and World Cup, where England's hopeless sack-it-and-see strategy meant they finished the competition with no more ideas of their best side or how to play the limited-overs game than at the start.

Illingworth believes Botham has nothing to offer now: his motivational powers extended to himself only, says the chairman, and the evidence is there from his brief period of captaincy. The Legend, he feels, would get bored. Lloyd on the other hand thinks that Botham could contribute a great deal, from technical advice in particular to enthusiasm. "Either may be right, but that is not the issue. What really matters is whether it is fair that Illingworth — hands-on chairman or not — should be dictating to an England coach trying to establish his own style what tools he should use for his trade, and indeed whether personal animosity should even be suspected of overriding what might be best for the team.



Atherton...reappointed

Athletics

Modahl abuses official

DIANE MODAHL could be the subject of a fresh investigation by the British Athletic Federation after an astonishing public attack on one of the officials who suspended her. Competitors finishing the London Marathon watched in amazement as Modahl shouted abuse at Joselyn Hoyte-Smith in the baggage area of Sunday's race before being led away by her husband Vincent.

Rugby Union

RFU faces the inevitable on pay-per-view

Robert Armstrong

A GROWING number of club administrators believe that pay-per-view television, especially for European Cup games, must be introduced to help provide the income to pay players and develop their grounds in the professional era. The Rugby Football Union, which in theory would like to see the terrestrial channels retain a key role in transmitting top fixtures, will inevitably be forced to go along with pay-per-view with BSkyB to fund a new multi-million pound contract.

miss that it commands 70 per cent of the British TV audience, 300,000 of whom regularly apply for tickets to every championship match played at Twickenham. Clearly a new TV package that included, say, the delayed transmission of Five Nations highlights by terrestrial channels and pay-per-view for live satellite transmission of the same game would have considerable appeal to the RFU. Naturally union negotiators do not want to be seen clobbering the consumer/sponsor at this delicate stage when the chasm between the clubs and Twickenham has widened dramatically. Yet once a compromise has been reached, rugby's wheeler-dealers will put their heads together for club and country and go for the last pound in every punter's pocket.

England Av The Rest

Thorpe steals final scene

Paul Weaver at Chelmsford

THIS audition of a match has proved something of a disappointment for the casting directors of English cricket; yesterday Graham Thorpe dominated play like a leading man unwilling to share the stage with lesser thespians. The selectors know enough about Thorpe; he is probably one of only five players — along with Michael Atherton, Graeme Hick, Jack Russell and Dominic Cork — sure of his place when the internationalists' against India start next month. He had a disappointing Test series against South Africa, scoring 164 runs in eight innings with a solitary fifty, but partially mended his reputation with a solid World Cup. He still has a respectable Test average of 40.97 from 26 matches and his left-handedness and belligerence are valuable bonuses.



Salisbury pain... Graham Thorpe edges the England A leg-break bowler just short of first allip

alternatives. Hussain must now be viewed as a possible rival when the job comes up for discussion again in mid-summer. He greatly impressed in Pakistan last winter, when his England A side were unbeaten until the final one-day match. At Essex last season his contribution to the side as Paul Richards' vice-captain was considerable. David Lloyd, the new England coach, is clearly impressed. "The A side did really well in this match. They played very much as a team, tight-knit and

together. It was as if they were carrying on from where they left off in Pakistan." Only Thorpe threatened to take this match into the fourth day. Mike Watkinson, who produced a couple of lavish off-drives against Ian Salisbury, was the only player to provide him with meaningful company.

The Rest were all out for 253, leaving England A to get 60 to win. The only disappointment for Hussain was that he was out just two runs short of victory, bowled off-stump as he played forward.

There are no doubts in Liz McColgan's mind. She has been installed as 2-1 favourite for the Olympic gold medal by bookmakers after her London victory. The Scot promised yesterday that she will not employ the same tactics as on Sunday, when she allowed three runners to open a gap which at one point stretched to more than two minutes. "They could easily have gone on to win," she admitted. "I won't allow it to happen in the Olympics."

Rugby League

Dwyer determined not to be elbowed out of Bulls' final

Paul Fitzpatrick

BERNARD DWYER, who damaged an elbow at Wigan on Friday, remains Bradford Bulls' main injury worry as they prepare for Saturday's Silk Cut Challenge Cup final against St Helens at Wembley. "But you would have to hit him with a crowbar to prevent him playing," the coach Brian Smith, said yesterday. Dwyer, a versatile forward who can play anywhere in the pack, was in the St Helens side beaten by Wigan in the 1989 and 1991 finals. He was one of three players off-loaded to Bradford last November when Paul Newlove signed for Saints in a record deal worth £500,000. The other two, Sonny Nickle and Paul Loughlin, are in a 19-man squad named yesterday. Three definite absentees are the ineligible James Lewis, the hooker signed from Leeds, Glen Tomlinson, the Australian scrum-half

Sailing

Call for referees as rogue sailors loose anarchy on the high seas

Bob Fisher in Plymouth

A FLAGRANT disregard for the International Yacht Racing Rules by some competitors here, including several instances of cheating, has marred the Semaine Olympique and highlighted the rising tide of indiscipline on the water. With yesterday's racing cancelled because of high winds, attention was focused on the problem and Britain's team manager Mike McIntyre said he had been appalled by what he had seen. On Sunday two French 470s collided at a tacking mark, an incident which demanded that one should have taken a penalty turn on protest, but both ignored the infringement. An Italian Soling, whose skipper was warned at the recent world championship for gross misconduct, hit two of the tacking marks and continued racing.

Sport in brief

Motor racing

Audi's appeal against Frank Biels's disqualification from Sunday's fourth round of the RAC Touring Car Championship at Brands Hatch will be heard on Monday or Wednesday next week. The Vauxhall team protested about the Audi's suspension system. But Dr Wolfgang Ulrich, head of Audi Sport, said yesterday: "The suspension on the Audi A4 Quattro was passed legal by the FIA 19 months ago and we have not changed anything. We've asked the FIA in Paris to confirm in writing our car's legality." Tennis Sam Smith won a singles on her Fed Cup debut but Britain were beaten 2-1 by Belarus in their opening pool match at La Manga yesterday. She beat Tatiana Ignatieva 6-2, 6-3 to put Britain ahead but Natalia Zvereva, the world No. 21, then overcame Clare Wood and helped Ignatieva beat Wood and Vaidia Laka. Ice hockey Viktor Tikhonov, the world's most successful coach, was

Motor racing

fired yesterday by CSKA Moscow on the orders of Russia's defence minister Pavel Grachev. Tikhonov led the army team to 12 successive Soviet League titles starting in 1978 and coached the Soviet team to three Olympic gold medals and eight world titles.

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Vertical text on the left margin: Reid and Clark in Rush chase, Coca-Cola on the cars

